<u>CLAIMS</u>

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for analyzing a network utilizing a zone controller, comprising:

2   (a)   receiving network traffic information from a plurality of host controllers; and

3   (b)   reporting on the network traffic information utilizing a plurality of network-

4   based interfaces; and

5   (c)   wherein the host controllers are related to a zone.

1   2.   The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising synchronizing a clock

2   with the host controllers.

1   3.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network traffic information is

2   originally collected by a plurality of agents coupled to the host controllers.

1   4.   The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising identifying a zone

2   associated with each of the host controllers.

1   5.   The method as recited in claim 4, and further comprising reporting on the

2   network traffic information relating to each of the zones.

1   6.   The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising receiving maps from

2   the host controllers.

1   7.   The method as recited in claim 6, and further comprising reporting on the

2   network traffic information utilizing the maps.

1 8.   The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising offloading the network
2   traffic information to a database.

1 9.   A computer program product for analyzing a network utilizing a zone controller,
2   comprising:
3 (a)   computer code for receiving network traffic information from a plurality of host
4   controllers; and
5 (b)   computer code for reporting on the network traffic information utilizing a
6   plurality of network-based interfaces; and
7 (c)   wherein the host controllers are related to a zone.

1 10.   The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2   computer code for synchronizing a clock with the host controllers.

1 11.   The computer program product as recited in claim 9, wherein the network traffic
2   information is originally collected by a plurality of agents coupled to the host
3   controllers.

1 12.   The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2   computer code for identifying a zone associated with each of the host
3   controllers.

1 13.   The computer program product as recited in claim 12, and further comprising
2   computer code for reporting on the network traffic information relating to each
3   of the zones.

1 14.   The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2   computer code for receiving maps from the host controllers.

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1   15.   The computer program product as recited in claim 14, and further comprising
2   computer code for reporting on the network traffic information utilizing the
3   maps.

1   16.   The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2   computer code for offloading the network traffic information to a database.

1   17.   A system for analyzing a network utilizing a zone controller, comprising:
2   (a)   logic for receiving network traffic information from a plurality of host
3   controllers; and
4   (b)   logic for reporting on the network traffic information utilizing a plurality of
5   network-based interfaces; and
6   (c)   wherein the host controllers are related to a zone.

1   18.   The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for
2   synchronizing a clock with the host controllers.

1   19.   The system as recited in claim 17, wherein the network traffic information is
2   originally collected by a plurality of agents coupled to the host controllers.

1   20.   The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for identifying a
2   zone associated with each of the host controllers.

1   21.   The system as recited in claim 20, and further comprising logic for reporting on
2   the network traffic information relating to each of the zones.

1   22.   The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for receiving
2   maps from the host controllers.

1   23.   The system as recited in claim 22, and further comprising logic for reporting on

2   the network traffic information utilizing the maps.

1   24.   The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for offloading

2   the network traffic information to a database.

1   25.   A system for analyzing a network utilizing a zone controller, comprising:

2   (a)   means for receiving network traffic information from a plurality of host

3   controllers; and

4   (b)   means for reporting on the network traffic information utilizing a plurality of

5   network-based interfaces; and

6   (c)   wherein the host controllers are related to a zone.

1   26.   A method for analyzing a network utilizing a zone controller, comprising:

2   (a)   synchronizing a clock with a plurality of host controllers;

3   (b)   receiving network traffic information from the host controllers;

4   (c)   identifying a zone associated with each of the host controllers;

5   (d)   receiving maps from the host controllers;

6   (e)   reporting on the network traffic information relating to each of the zones

7   utilizing a plurality of network-based interfaces and the maps; and

8   (f)   offloading the network traffic information to a database.